

News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Bruce George Elected OSCE PA President

On 10 July 2002, the final day of the 11th Annual Session in Berlin, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly elected Mr. Bruce George, MP (United Kingdom) as its new President for a one year term. He succeeds Mr. Adrian Severin who has served the Assembly for the past two years. Mr. George, Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee, has been an active member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since its first gathering in Budapest in 1992. He subsequently served the Assembly as Rapporteur and Chair of the First Committee and as Vice-President. In addition, he chaired the Assembly's Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and serves as Vice Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability.

He was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to lead many important OSCE election monitoring missions to: Albania, Georgia and Ukraine as well as to Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo. He has chaired conferences organized by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly including a meeting between Defence Ministers, Heads of the Military and Chairs of Defence Committees within Bosnia & Herzegovina. Mr. George

has also been an active Member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly since 1982. Mr. George was educated at the University of Wales and the University of Warwick specializing in Politics and Government. He has written eight books on security and defence subjects and has authored over two hundred articles, chapters of books, monographs and policy papers including extensive writing on OSCE issues.

Other Officers elected at the Berlin Session:

Vice Presidents:

Ms Barbara Haering (Switzerland)
Mr. Ihor Ostash (Ukraine)
Mr. Gert Weisskirchen (Germany)

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Chair: Mr. Goran Lennmarker (Sweden)
Vice-Chair: Mr Panyiotis Kammenos (Greece)
Rapporteur: Mr. Clifford Lincoln (Canada)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Chair: Mr. Oleg Bilorus (Ukraine)
Vice-Chair: Ms Monika Griefahn (Germany)
Rapporteur: Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia)



OSCE PA President Bruce George addressing the Assembly Plenary

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Chair: Mrs Elena Mizulina (Russia)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Svend Robinson (Canada)
Rapporteur: Ms. Nebahat Albayrak (Netherlands)

The Berlin Declaration

After meetings in Berlin from 6 to 10 July more than 300 parliamentarians of the OSCE PA unanimously adopted the Berlin Declaration on the political, economic and the human rights aspects of the central theme of the Session: "Confronting Terrorism: a Global Challenge in the 21st Century". In addition, several resolutions were adopted on Belarus, Moldova, Southeast Europe, combating trafficking in human beings, anti-Semitic violence in the OSCE region, the impact of terrorism on women, human rights and the war on terrorism, the prohibition of anti-personnel mines and Roma education.

All documents are available at www.osce.org/pa



"The OSCE has ceased to be a conference of governments a long time ago and has become an international organization which deeply penetrates our societies. Where governments come upon their limits, parliaments can often act with greater independence. During the ten years the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has existed it has shown how important impulses and support can be given to the work of the Organization...The Parliamentary Assembly has at its disposal a political potential which should be further utilized in the Organization."

German Minister of Foreign Affairs Joschka Fischer at the Berlin Session

Upcoming Events

- 15 September 2002
Parliamentary Elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- 2-4 October 2002
Standing Committee Meeting and Parliamentary Conference in Madrid on Security in the Mediterranean
- 5 October 2002
Parliamentary Election in Bosnia & Herzegovina.
- 20-21 February 2003
Winter Meeting, Vienna